

Opening Statement
Wm. Lacy Clay, Chairman
"Status of the 2010 Census Operations"

*Information Policy, Census and National Archives
Subcommittee*
Oversight and Government Reform Committee

*Thursday, March 5, 2009
10:00 A.M.*

**WE ARE AT A CRITICAL STAGE OF PREPARATIONS
FOR NEXT YEAR'S DECENTNIAL CENSUS.**

**THIS WILL BE THE BUREAU'S LARGEST AND MOST
EXPENSIVE CENSUS OPERATION, COSTING
TAXPAYERS OVER \$14 BILLION DOLLARS. THE
BUREAU MUST USE ALL OF THESE RESOURCES TO
ENSURE AN ACCURATE, FAIR AND COMPLETE COUNT
ON APRIL 1, 2010.**

**AS CHAIRMAN, MY MISSION IS TO HELP THE BUREAU
TO CONDUCT THE MOST ACCURATE CENSUS IN U.S.
HISTORY.**

**LAST TIME, IN '2000, THE CENSUS MISSED 3 MILLION
AMERICANS AND 1.4 MILLION HOMES. MOST OF
THOSE WHO WERE MISSED WERE POOR. MANY
WERE MINORITIES. AND THE MAJORITY WERE
FROM URBAN AREAS.**

THAT'S JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

**MY STANDARD IS VERY SIMPLE, EVERY ONE COUNTS
AND EVERY PERSON MUST BE COUNTED.**

**THE UNDERCOUNT IS EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO
STATES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

**IT DEPRIVES THEM OF PROPER POLITICAL
REPRESENTATION, FEDERAL FORMULA DOLLARS
AND VITAL INFORMATION.**

**FOR EVERY PERSON THE BUREAU MISSES, THEIR
LOCAL COMMUNITY WILL LOSE THOUSANDS OF
DOLLARS OF FEDERAL FUNDING...FOR TEN YEARS.**

**AND GIVEN THE ECONOMIC EMERGENCY WE ALL
FACE,
NO CITY OR STATE CAN AFFORD TO MISS ANYONE.**

**THE BUREAU HAS LESS THAN ONE MONTH TO
COMPLETE PREPARATIONS FOR ADDRESS
CANVASSING.**

**THIS ESSENTIAL OPERATION WILL ENSURE THE
ACCURACY OF ITS MASTER ADDRESS LIST.**

**AUTOMATION AND IT WILL PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE
IN THE SUCCESS OF THE 2010 CENSUS.**

**FOR THE FIRST TIME, ADDRESSES WILL BE
COLLECTED AND VERIFIED USING HANDHELD
COMPUTERS.**

**TODAY WE WILL FOCUS ON THE BUREAU'S
PROGRESS TOWARDS STRENGTHENING ITS
INTEGRATED IT SYSTEMS AND HOW THEY CAN
REDUCE ANY RISKS THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE AN
ACCURATE ENUMERATION.**

**I WANT TO THANK ALL OF OUR WITNESSES FOR
APPEARING HERE TODAY AND I LOOK FORWARD TO
THEIR TESTIMONY.**